

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 972

By Turner M

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Joe D. Casey upon his induction into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those citizens who, through unwavering dedication and unflagging commitment to excellence, have distinguished themselves as leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Joe D. Casey, who has devoted nearly twenty-five years to officiating the games of young athletes; on March 15, 2008, Mr. Casey will be inducted into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) Hall of Fame, a most befitting recognition of his outstanding service to Tennessee high school athletics; and

WHEREAS, joining the TSSAA in 1950, Joe Casey proved to be an excellent basketball official; he became well-known for the fairness of his judgment and his deep knowledge and understanding of the sport he officiated; and

WHEREAS, throughout his officiating career, Mr. Casey presided over many important high school games, including the 1965 basketball game between Pearl High School and Father Ryan High School; believed to have been the first integrated athletic contest in Nashville sports history, the game was played in front of an estimated 8,300 fans; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Casey also received accolades for the professional expertise he exuded while officiating the 1968 Stratford High School versus Cameron High School basketball game; it was a tense game due to racial unrest in the city; and

WHEREAS, Joe Casey rendered sterling service officiating the 1960 and 1966 Boys State Tournaments; games for the Volunteer State Athletic Conference, the Ohio Valley Conference, and A&I basketball; the Women's National AAU Basketball Tournament in Gallup, New Mexico; the Russian Girls versus the Nashville Business College Girls basketball game in

Murfreesboro; and various high school district and regional tournaments and junior high school games; and

WHEREAS, he also lent his innumerable talents as an umpire for the TSSAA, working the American Legion tournaments for two years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Casey's contribution to high school athletics is not limited to officiating, as he also coached junior high school basketball at his alma mater North High School, where he was an outstanding all-around athlete, excelling in basketball, baseball, football, softball, track, and golf; and

WHEREAS, exhibiting outstanding athletic abilities, Joe Casey went on to play five years of professional baseball for the Boston Braves farm system and two years of professional basketball in the Southern League for the Nashville Vols; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated sportsman, Mr. Casey founded the Babe Ruth Baseball League in Nashville, co-managed the Coca-Cola Gilbert League team, and managed the first all-star team from Nashville to go to the Babe Ruth World Series from Nashville; he pitched for Dupont in the City League championship and also managed and played on the Falstaff City League team; and

WHEREAS, sports accomplishments aside, Mr. Casey served with acumen and alacrity as the Police Chief for the Nashville Police Department from 1973 until 1989; and

WHEREAS, he lent his professional expertise as President of the International Association of Chiefs of Police from 1987 until 1988 and as President of the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police for seven years; he also served for twenty years on the Middle Tennessee Council Boy Scouts of America Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, the significance of Mr. Casey's impact cannot be adequately measured by his number of years as a TSSAA Official; his positive impact on the lives of students, athletes, fellow officials, and administrators will continue to resound in the community for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, during his illustrious career, Mr. Casey has enjoyed the loving support of his wife, Jewell Casey, and his children, Starr, Minka, Karen Jo, Mike, and Lynn; and

WHEREAS, for the above accomplishments, and because of his impeccable moral standards and impressive work ethic, Mr. Casey has been selected for induction into the TSSAA Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Joe Casey, as a man of true character and commitment, exemplifies the type of selfless community servant and civic leader whom fellow Tennesseans admire for their tireless efforts to mold the State's youth, guiding them with solid principles and high standards, whether in the athletic arena or in the actions of daily life; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join the family and friends of Joe D. Casey in congratulating him upon his induction into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame, honor and commend Mr. Casey for his substantial legacy as an official in the sports community of Tennessee, and offer our gratitude for the dedication that he has shown our State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.